

Human-Animal Medicine: Clinical Approaches to Zoonoses, Toxicants and Other Shared Health Risks

**Peter M. Rabinowitz
and Lisa A. Conti**

**Saunders, Maryland Heights, MD,
USA, 2009
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Pages: 432; Price: US \$99.95**

Hooray, finally a book emerges about the human–animal interface that addresses both perspectives equitably and seamlessly. Peter Rabinowitz, a physician, and Lisa Conti, a veterinarian, effectively present material that is thorough, balanced, and of great relevance for practitioners of all varieties of medicine.

More than half the pages comprise reports on each of 35 zoonoses. At the beginning of each report are key points divided into professional categories—public health professionals, human health clinicians, and veterinary clinicians—ensuring relevance for multiple readers. In addition, 55 pages deal with toxicoses, including environmental, gaseous, poisonous plants, herbicides/pesticides, and envenomations. Clinical signs, symptoms, species comparisons, treatment and prevention for these toxicoses are all spelled out clearly.

This inclusive approach, with its plentiful and accurate technical information, might be enough to justify purchasing the book for the shelf of any human or veterinary medical practice, but it is the additional 175 pages that set this volume apart from all others on the subject. A lengthy introductory chapter discusses the general concept of one medicine and why that concept does not mean one practitioner but rather integration of

practitioners from multiple sectors. The chapter describes the serious legal and ethical considerations associated with professionally crossing the human–animal interface. The occupational health of animal workers is covered in detail and includes not only zoonotic agents that immediately come to mind, but also allergens, use of live vaccines, noise, anesthetic gases, and the psychosocial impacts of such issues as euthanasia. Animal-assisted therapy is covered in detail. The book includes a particularly useful section on immunocompromised persons and their exposure to animals and another one on animal bites. There is even a segment on travel, including concerns about wild animal contact, as well as disease hazards for pets that travel. These additional chapters make parts of this book relevant for a much wider audience that could potentially include policy makers, regulators, students, and academicians.

Throughout, the book is graphically pleasing, with text broken regularly by subheadings, tables, pen-and-ink drawings, algorithms, photographs, and intriguing side bars. Some of the side bars are case studies, with interesting scenarios and quick tips for promoting health.

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Who's in Charge? Leadership during Epidemics, Bioterror Attacks, and Other Public Health Crises

Laura H. Kahn

**Praeger Security International,
Santa Barbara, CA, USA, 2009
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Dr Laura Kahn has produced a useful book that provides a brief historical background on public health and terrorism, followed by interesting examples of leadership during outbreaks and events that escalated to public health crises. The roles of astute clinicians, public health professionals, appointed public health leaders, and elected officials are described by the players themselves. These insights provide important perspectives and are fascinating reading, but each event includes the voices of only a few of many participants. This omission may leave the reader hungry for a wider variety of viewpoints.

Kahn takes the reader through a thought-provoking overview of the complexity of leadership and some early milestones in public health. Kahn makes it clear that politics, economics, communications, and interpersonal relations are as central to today's public health crises as they were in the past.

Persuasive examples support Kahn's main thesis that political leadership is critical during a public health crisis, whether the crisis results from natural causes or from bioterrorism. Kahn says, "Questions about leaders and leadership have intrigued scholars in both Western and Eastern civilizations for centuries. Plato, Confucius, and Machiavelli all speculated about leaders... and the qualities of leadership." Kahn concludes that 1) informed, engaged, and prepared elected officials are essential to effective